

WILLENHALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

for the

YEAR 1920,

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

HENRY J. DEAN., L.R.C.P.

To which is appended the ANNUAL REPORT of the
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

SUMMARY OF VITAL AND MORTAL STATISTICS FOR 1920.

AREA

1277 acres

POPULATION :-

Census 1911

18,858

1920 (estimated)

20,054.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES.

Census 1911

3812

1920 (estimated)

3840

Average number of Persons per House { Census 1911 4.9
1920 5.2

Births

574

Birth Rate

28.6

Deaths

251

Death Rate

12.5

Zymotic Death Rate

0.6

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 Births

registered 68

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1920.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1920.

PHYSICAL FEATURES & GENERAL CHARACTER of the DISTRICT. Willenhall

is a Black Country Town, the centre of the Lock Manufacturing Industry. It lies in a broad shallow upland valley 400 to 500 feet above the sea level. The land on the North gradually rises as far as Essington and on the South East as far as the Sedgley Hills. The air is bracing though smoke laden; a small stream, the Tame Brook, commences in the Borough of Wolverhampton as the Stow Heath Brook, passes to the North of Portobello and then following an easterly direction skirts the town on its southern side and leaves it on the South East near the Sewage Farm. The soil is of considerable depth overlying a heavy clay or clay mixed with gravel which is almost impervious to water. The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in retail trades and on the manufacture of locks, keys, bolts, currycombs, iron and brass castings, enamelled iron wares, stampings of all kinds and other hardware goods. Fifty years ago Willenhall was a mining district and parts of the town are much undermined, notably Portobello. With reference to this part of the town, in Dr. Ballard's Report to the Local Government Board in 1874 he stated "that before many years are past this suburb will probably cease to exist". After 50 years a considerable portion of Portobello still remains, although its War Memorial erected this year is about the only redeeming feature.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District is served by the Wolverhampton Corporation mains. The supply was constant, abundant and of good quality.

THE AREA of the DISTRICT is 1277 acres and the rateable value £64711 : 12 : 0. The General District Rate is 7/- and the Poor Rate 10/4 in the £. The amount spent on out door relief during the year was £1143 : 9 : 0.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1920 was 3840. This number is made up as follows:-

Number of houses at the end of 1919	3837
: : : erected & occupied in 1920	3
: : : demolished during 1920	0
Total	<u>3840</u>

This gives an average number of persons per house of 5.2

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POPULATION.

Census 1911	18858
1920 (estimated)	20054

BIRTHS.

The Births registered during the year numbered 574 i.e. 290 males and 284 females, of these 19 were illegitimate i.e. 13 males and 6 females. The number of births this year is the highest recorded since 1913. In 1919 there were 429 births.

Calculated on an estimated population of 20054 the Birth Rate is 28.6 per 1000 per year, as compared with 21.3, 23.6, 22.2, 23.9, and 28.8 in the 5 preceding years. The natural increase of population (by excess of births over deaths) is 323.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered was 251, i.e. 128 males and 123 females, equal to a nett Death Rate of 12.5 per 1000 per year as compared with 13.2, 20.2, 16.4, 12.8 and 18.4 in the 5 preceding years. Included in the above total are 37 deaths (25 males and 12 females) of Residents who died in Public Institutions outside the District. Since the earliest records of the District in my possession (1854) the total number of deaths registered have been fewer than in the year under consideration on only three occasions viz. in 1907 (248 deaths) 1910 (205 deaths) of 1916 (238 deaths).

INQUESTS.

Ten inquests were held in the District and 9 in Public Institutions outside, upon persons belonging to the District.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of infants under one year old was 39 (including 2 illegitimate males) as compared with 36, 40, 60, 38 & 82 in the 5 preceding years. The Infant Mortality Rate was equal to 68 per 1000 Registered Births, which is lower than on any other year on record in Willenhall. The rate for England and Wales for the year was 80, and this is also the lowest on record for the County as a whole

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T A B L E (1)

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WILLENHALL URBAN DISTRICT 1920

Causes of Death (Civilians only)	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	128	123
1. Enteric Fever		
2. Small-pox		
3. Measles		
4. Scarlet fever		
5. Whooping Cough	3	5
6. Diphtheria and croup		
7. Influenza	12	1
8. Erysipelas		
9. Pulmonary tuberculosis	8	4
10. Tuberculous meningitis	1	1
11. Other tuberculous diseases		2
12. Cancer, malignant disease	13	14
13. Rheumatic fever	1	2
14. Meningitis		
15. Organic heart disease	9	6
16. Bronchitis	13	15
17. Pneumonia (all forms)	20	14
18. Other respiratory diseases		4
19. Diarrhoea &c. (under 2 years)	2	3
20. Appendicitis & typhlitis	1	
21. Cirrhosis of liver		2
22. A Alcoholism	1	
22. Nephritis and Bright's disease		4
23. Puerperal fever		1
24. Parturition, apart from puerperal fever		3
25. Congenital debility, &c.	9	6
26. Violence, apart from suicide	9	
27. Suicide	1	
28. Other defined diseases	25	36
29. Causes ill-defined or unknown		
Special Causes (included above)		
Cerebro-spinal fever		
Poliomyelitis		
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	24	15
Total Illegitimate	2	
TOTAL BIRTHS	290	284
Legitimate	277	278
Illegitimate	13	6
POPULATION (For births and deaths)	20,054.	

Table II. Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1920.
(Provisional Figures. Populations estimated to middle of 1920 used for the purposes of this Table.)

	Birth-rate per 1000	Annual Death-rate per 1000 population								Rate per 1000 Births		Per-centage of Total Deaths.				
		All causes	Typhoid fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet fever	Whooping cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Trachoma	Scarificia and gonorrhoea (under 2 years)	Total deaths under one year	Deaths in Public Institutions	Artificial causes of death	Unavoidable causes of death	
England & Wales	25.4	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.28	0.48	8.3	80	24.3	92.2	6.6	1.2
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000).	26.2	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.04	0.14	0.16	0.31	0.43	10.4	85	31.3	92.2	7.1	0.7
148 smaller Towns (Census Populations 20,000 - 50,000.)	24.9	11.3	0.02	0.00	0.19	0.03	0.10	0.14	0.27	0.38	7.8	80	16.5	93.2	5.3	1.5
London	26.5	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.05	0.17	0.22	0.30	0.47	9.5	75	46.8	91.2	8.6	0.2

Maternity and Infant Welfare.

Particulars relating to the work during the ~~Month~~ of Year 1920

Health Visitors A. Kynaston & E. A. Aspinall District Willenhall

Births																										
Registered		Notified										Transfers from other Districts during the Month				First Visits			Revisits			Total Visits				
		Full term		Premature		Stillborn		By Midwives		By Parents and Doctors		Under ten days	Over ten days and under one year	One year and under five	Expectant Mothers	Children Under 1 year	Children Between 1 & 5 years	Expectant Mothers	Children Under 1 year	Children Between 1 & 5 years	Expectant Mothers	Children Under 1 year	Children Between 1 & 5 years			
L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	68	483	43	118	1678	1018	181	2161	1024
520	13	502	6	16	1	17	127	6	389	7		5	3	6												

Children on Visiting List at end of Month		Deaths and Removals of Children on Visiting List during the Month										Welfare Centre						No. of cases of insanitary conditions reported to Medical Officer of Health	
		Under ten days		Over ten days and under one year		One year and under five		Expectant Mothers		Children		No. on books		Total No. of Attendances					
		Deaths	Removals	Deaths	Removals	Deaths	Removals	Deaths	Removals	Under one year	Between 1 and 5 years	Under one year	Between 1 and 5 years	Expectant Mothers	Under one year	Between 1 and 5 years	Health Visitors		
Under One Year	One Year and under five	L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.	L.	I.		L.
514	1037	9	1			27	2	10	6	32	109	106	107	1256	572	47	each	79	

L.—Legitimate. I.—Illegitimate.

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DR. GEORGE REID,
County Medical Officer,
County Buildings,
Martin Street,
STAFFORD.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Cases of infectious diseases notified during the year numbered 42 and were as follows :- Scarlet Fever 12, Erysipelas 5, Pneumonia 21, Diphtheria 1, Puerperal Fever 1, Encephalitis Lethargica 1, and Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1.

Of non-notifiable infectious diseases there came to my knowledge Measles 61, Whooping Cough 88, Mumps 146 and Chicken Pox 87.

SCARLET FEVER.

Twelve cases notified, with no deaths. The disease was of a mild type. Isolation was carried out as far as practicable in the homes, but in the absence of an isolation hospital and with the present overcrowding it is impossible in most cases to do this efficiently.

ERYSIPELAS.

Five cases notified, with no deaths.

PNEUMONIA.

Twenty one cases of Primary Pneumonia, were notified, as compared with 17 last year. Thirty four deaths were registered from Pneumonia (all forms) which includes Broncho pneumonia.

DIPHTHERIA.

One case notified, which was confirmed bacteriologically. The child came on a visit from London and was ailing; on arrival so that probably the disease was contracted previous to coming here. Antidiphtheria serum was used and the case recovered. There were no deaths from Diphtheria.

With reference to this disease and also to cases of Typhoid Fever it would be an advantage if arrangements could be made by the Council with the Authorities of the Wolverhampton General Hospital for institutional treatment when required.

PUEPPERAL FEVER.

One case notified and one death.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

One case. This is the first reported case of the disease in Willenhall and it terminated fatally. The nature and origin of this disease is still obscure, but it has been demonstrated that for centuries cases of a "sleepy sickness" have constantly appeared in definite relation to epidemics of influenza.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

One case was notified and this recovered completely.

MEASLES.

The disease was of a mild type, the cases not numerous and there were not deaths.

251
1000
1000

WHOOPING COUGH.

Eighty eight cases reported and eight deaths. This is the most fatal of all the infectious complaints of children under 5 years of age; the deaths in most cases being due to pulmonary complications, chiefly broncho pneumonia. The younger child, the greater is the likelihood of the attack proving fatal. Too little care is often exercised by parents with sufferers from this disease. Children are allowed out of doors even in inclement weather and insufficiently clad. It is no uncommon sight to see children in the street in violent paroxysm of coughing. The danger of complications could often be arrested and the mortality lessened by taking greater care of the sufferers.

INFLUENZA.

Thirteen deaths were registered from this disease, equal to a Death Rate of 0.64 per 1000 per year of the population, and 5.2 per cent of the total deaths registered.

MUMPS.

This disease was prevalent throughout the year, but especially in the second quarter.

CHICKEN POX.

The cases of this disease were of the usual mild character and need no further comment.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

The seven principal Zymotic Diseases accounted for 13 deaths, as compared with 10, 12, 32, 11 and 82 in the 5 preceding years. The deaths were Whooping Cough 8 and Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 5. This gives a Zymotic Death Rate of 0.64 per 1000.

SCHOOLS. The water supply of the Elementary Schools is from the Wolverhampton Corporation mains and was abundant and good. The sanitary condition of the schools was satisfactory, but a few minor defects were reported to the local school Secretary or the Managers in connection with sanitary conveniences, and one informal notice for same was served in connection with the Central Schools. All the schools (public elementary) are provided with water closets and washing basins. No schools were closed or fumigated during the year on account of infectious disease. Intimations of infectious or contagious disease are regularly received from Head Teachers of Elementary Schools and these receive prompt investigation. Certificates to Elementary School Authorities advising exclusion from school for specified periods of scholars living in infectious homes were sent as follows :- St. Annes 9; Little London 6; St. Giles' 14; St. Mary's 16; Central 35; Portobello 40, Walsall Road 4; Albion Road 10, Total 134 as compared with 138 in 1919.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

This is not for the isolation of general infectious cases but for cases of Small Pox only. It has accommodation for 14 patients. No cases were treated during the year. A Steam Disinfector is fixed at the Sewage outfall works and was in use on 25 days during the year.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Under the arrangements with the Authorities of the University of Birmingham the following examinations were made during the year :-

Tuberculosis 6 (3 positive). Diphtheria 1 (positive).

VACCINATIONS.

No vaccinations were performed by the M.O.H. under the Public Health (Small pox prevention) Regulations 1917.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Sixty three certificates were received under the various Tuberculosis Regulations relating to 58 pulmonary and 5 other forms of the disease. Of these 22 Pulmonary and 5 other forms were fresh cases as compared with 25⁴⁵ respectively in 1919. Fifteen patients were admitted to Sanatoria (Form C) and 21 were discharged (Form D) from same during the year, as compared with 8 and 6 respectively in 1919. The deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were 12, as compared with 17, 40, 24, 21, and 17 in the 5 preceding years. The Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 0.59 per 1000 of the population.

The requirements as to notification of tuberculosis by Medical Practitioners were duly and promptly observed. The following table gives the number of cases notified in the several age periods :-

		Between 5	15 and	25 and	45 and	At all
		Forms and 15	under 25	under 45	under 65	ages
Pulmonary	{ A	0	7	9	6	22
	{ O	0	5	7	3	15
	{ D	0	7	12	2	21
Other Forms	{ A	0	2	0	0	2
	{ B	3	0	0	0	3

In investigating notified cases of Consumption overcrowding in the home is too frequently found to exist, and although steps are taken to re-arrange the sleeping accommodation as far as possible, with the present shortage of houses little can be done to alleviate the conditions. Shelters are out of the question in all but a very small proportion of cases.

EXCREMENT AND REFUSE REMOVAL.

All refuse is removed by the Council's own men under the supervision of the foreman of the Surveyor's Department. The work was satisfactorily carried out. A considerable number of the houses are now provided with sanitary dust bins of galvanized iron which are emptied periodically. This should be done weekly, otherwise the bins are apt to get filled to overflowing and cause more nuisance than a properly constructed ashpit.

There are still a number of privies and large open ashpits, both of which it is hoped will be considerably reduced in the near future.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Practically every street in the town is now sewered. The Disposal works continue to give excellent results, the effluents being very satisfactory.

MORTUARY.

The Town still has no mortuary and as I have already pointed out it is very essential that one should be provided. Having a regard to the large industrial area with a population of over 20,000 no further argument is needed to emphasise the importance of this provision.

COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS AND DAIRIES.

There are 3 cowsheds, 4½ milk sellers and 1 dairy on the register. The cowsheds have been satisfactorily kept, and are all supplied with water from the same source as the town generally. As regards the Milkshops the premises on the whole were found to be satisfactory, but in some instances there is need for improvement in the storage accommodation. More care is being taken in keeping the milk in covered vessels.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 3 licenses and 11 registered slaughter houses in the District and these have been regularly inspected.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

This has been efficiently carried out by your Inspector and details of the work will be found in the tables of his report.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

THE STAFF consists of a Clerk, Medical Officer, Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector, who is also the Housing Inspector under the Housing Act, and two Health Visitors (the latter appointed under the County Scheme).

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890
Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 (acts)
Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops Order (1889)
Supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin (L.G.B. Order 1910)
Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 (Acts).

HOUSING.

The District is largely an artesian one and the houses mostly belong to the cottage class, about 66% having only two bedrooms. The extent of housing needs during the next 5 years was shown in my 1920 Report taken from the survey figures supplied to the Housing Commissioner to the Ministry of Health.

It is generally recognized that the Housing Department of the Ministry of Health has very materially curtailed their Housing programme and I believe that 500 to 600 new houses under the Government scheme (having regard to the altered conditions of trade etc) would for some little time supply the needs of the township. Granted the above, the schemes the Council have on foot viz:- Temple Road site 76 houses; Fisher Street 44; Wolverhampton Road 118; New Park 160, will go a long way to mitigate the acute shortage which is felt at the present time.

OVERCROWDING. The extent of overcrowding in the town is acute. Many of the present houses are insanitary and ought to be demolished but owing to the fact that few new houses have been built in recent years and to the slow progress made in the present building operations it will be sometime before many of these old houses can be done away with. At the Census 1911 with a population of 18,858 there were 3812 inhabited houses giving an average number of persons per house of 4.9. In 1920 while the number of inhabited houses is only increased by 28 the population is greater by 1196 and the average number of persons per houses is 5.2.

Having regard to the fact that 66 per cent of the working class houses have only two bedrooms it has been found for practical purposes that any figure over 4.75 persons per house will produce overcrowding. By taking this figure our present number of houses is sufficient to accommodate a population of 18,240, leaving a balance of 1,814 requiring 380 more houses to meet the existing overcrowding i.e. equal to one-tenth of the present number of houses for immediate requirements. Quite 400 houses intended for one family only are at present occupied by 2 or more families.

In dealing with cases of overcrowding at the present time it too frequently happens that when the nuisance is abated, the cases crop up again and again at other premises.

Fitness of Houses. Working class houses constitute about 90%, a large number of which have reached the limit of their natural life.

General Character of defects found to exist in unfit houses.

Defective lighting, ventilation, dampness, and confined area. Many are suffering from senile decay. At the present cost of labour and materials owners are loath to carry out extensive repairs on this old property, and closing orders are not possible as other dwellings cannot be found for the tenants.

Appended are the statistics of Housing Conditions, the tables required by the Ministry of Health, the Home Office and also a Report of the Sanitary Inspector with tabular statements giving outlines of his work.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY J. DEAN,

Medical Officer of Health,

May 11th 1921.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December 1920.

1. GENERAL.

(1)	Estimated population	20054
(2)	General death-rate	12.5
(3)	Death-rate from tuberculosis	0.59
(4)	Infantile mortality	68
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	3840
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses	3537
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected	3

2. UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

1. INSPECTION.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	423
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.	220
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	11
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	113

11. --REMEDY OF DEFECTS without SERVICE of FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	64
---	----

11A. --ACTION under STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	20
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit	
	(a) by owners	20
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	143
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied	
	(a) by owners	95
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0

6. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which <u>Closing Orders</u> were made | nil |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | nil |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | nil |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | nil. |

3. UNHEALTHY AREAS

Areas represented to the Local authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890 :-

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| (1) Name of area | } <i>nil</i> |
| (2) Acreage | |
| (3) Number of working-class houses in area | |
| (4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced | |

4. -- Number of houses not complying with the building byelaws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

5. -- Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer -----

Surveyor, Architect, Clerk of Works, Draughtsman & Surveyors Assistant, Clerk (Clerical Work).

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THE FIRST OF THE TWO PARTS OF THE

1847

ANNUAL REPORT. 1920.

Sanitary Inspector's Office
Town Hall.

March 24th 1921.

To the Chairman and members of the Willenhall Urban District Council.

Sir and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the Memorandum of the Ministry of Health I herewith beg to present to you my report of the work carried out by me under the Public Health, Acts, Housing Acts &c for 1920.

GENERAL. The details of the inspections carried out are given in the tables as required by the Ministry of Health. Table A contains a summary of all the inspections carried out in the inspection of the district and also inquiries into any complaints respecting nuisances or defects, the reinspection of premises where notices have been issued for defects and the inspection of premises where infectious cases have been reported.

COMPLAINTS. A large proportion of the complaints received - verbal and written - are received from tenants and owners respecting choked drains and closets -- most of these are the waste water type of closet, and the complaints in a great measure are due to neglect and abuse on the tenants part especially in yards common to several families which are the source of the nuisances complained of.
During the year 720 stoppages were removed by the Councils men.

NOTICES. During the year 600 preliminary notices were issued dealing with various defects and nuisances inclusive of verbal notices where the defects were of a minor character.
744 Statutory Notices were issued for the abatement of nuisances chiefly for structural defects in dwelling houses defective ashpits, privies, etc.

IMPROVEMENTS. 438 improvements have been carried out to various properties and dwelling houses - but the excessive and high cost of labour and material throughout the year has made it extremely difficult to get repairs carried out beyond those which were absolutely necessary and urgent, but it is hoped that with the decreased cost of material and labour that an improvement in these matters will show a further increase as trade becomes more normal.

For details of the notices issued and improvements carried out see Tables A. and D.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATIONS etc.

The following are the details of the sanitary accommodation in use in the district to the end of 1920.

Water closets with flushing cisterns	1177
Waste water or slop closets	1739
Privies.	
Privy and ashpit combined	109
Privy and ashpit separate	279
Cesspools	4
Ashpits.	
Open ashpits	99
Covered ashpits	822
Ashbins (movable)	1201

Conversions etc of privies.

The conversion of privies etc is shewn in the following table.

	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	Total
No of privies abolished in	32	31	16	20	37	31	167
: : ashpits : :	15	9	3	5	19	12	63
: : water closets erected	67	57	35	54	32	42	287
: : waste water closets erect ed	28	1	-	-	-	-	24
No of new ashbins provided	9	12	8	11	36	51	127

All new closets and conversions of the existing privies are of the wash down type or supplied with automatic flushing cisterns and it is to be hoped that all new dwelling houses will be provided with proper and sufficient wash down water closets in preference to any type of "slop or waste water closets" as these under the most favourable conditions do not comply with the standard of fitness which alone can be reached by the provision of a suitable washdown water closet and flushing cistern for each dwelling house.

SCAVENGING. removal of house refuse etc.

This is carried out by the local Authority under the supervision of the Surveyors department and the district is systematically visited. The work is kept well in hand and any complaints or requests receive the earliest attention. 317 requests were reported to the Department through the Inspector of Nuisances and from occupiers.

All the dry refuse is removed to various tips on the outskirts of the district where any nuisance is reduced to a minimum, privy refuse is deposited on agricultural land rented by the Council on land situate away from any dwelling houses and further covered by dry refuse.

The number of loads removed during the year was

Dry refuse	6011 loads
Wet refuse	550 do.

1871

1872

1873

1874

1875

1876

1877

1878

1879

1880

1881

1882

1883

1884

1885

1886

1887

1888

1889

SLAUGHTERHOUSES. There are 14 slaughterhouses in the district of these 3 are licensed and 11 registered. On the whole they are kept in a reasonable condition. Two of them are so situated owing to the proximity of dwelling-houses as to be a frequent source of complaint from adjoining residents when work is in progress and during the removal of trade refuse. The premises generally are in good repair. One of the slaughterhouses is under notice to carry out repairs to the floor, yard etc and this will be complied with shortly. One was erected within the last few years and the others have been in use for some time. Frequent visits are made at all times of the day and the meat is inspected during the time that work is in progress. The quality of the meat deposited for sale and brought into the town is on the whole excellent except for the period during the war when all the meat retailers were rationed when the quality of the meat varied.

During the past year no action has been necessary in respect to tuberculous meat in either pigs or cattle.

No public abattoir has been established in the town but a decided improvement would be gained if all private slaughterhouses were discontinued as such and suitable premises built for the needs of the public as nuisances are of frequent occurrence when the existing slaughterhouses are situate near to private dwelling houses.

COWSHEDS, MILKSHOPS AND DAIRIES.

There are three cowsheds at present in use as such with accommodation for 29 cows. The premises in two of these are satisfactory as regards structure and in one case the occupier is removing shortly as the premises are being taken over for other purposes and will not be used again as such. All the cowsheds are supplied with water direct from the town supply.

There are 43 milksellers and one dairy. The premises generally are fairly good, but the practice of retailing milk from premises where other goods are stored or sold is not conducive to a high standard of cleanliness and purity. All milk purveyors should have proper storage accommodation for the sale of milk and dairy produce and the practice of selling milk in premises other than those that conform to this standard should be gradually discontinued in favour of more hygienic and properly constructed premises.

MILK SUPPLY.

A large proportion of the milk retailed in this district comes from farms situated in various parts of the County and district from other farms adjacent to the town area. No action has been taken in respect to Tuberculosis milk and no complaint has been received as to any suspected supply.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 15 Bakehouses in the district and 5 void. 41 visits have been made during the year and 7 nuisances remedied. Three of the bakehouses are very old and in poor condition and one of these is used but rarely -- the remainder are more of a modern type and with minor exceptions are kept in a satisfactory condition.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades carried on in the district beyond the frying of fish which is not included as an offensive trade up to the present although nuisances arise from premises where this is carried on unless steps are taken to provide a modern method of frying the fish and suitable provision made to deal with any effluvia that may be produced during the time work is in progress.

MEAT and FOOD INSPECTION. The various food and meat premises have been visited during the year and steps taken to withdraw any article of food not fit for human consumption in accordance with the power given under the Public Health Acts.

For details of the food destroyed during the year see table.

WORKSHOPS and FACTORIES. There are 308 Workshops and Factories on the Register. Most of these are engaged in the making of locks and keys and work incidental thereto. 230 inspections have been made and 67 notices issued for various defects including 23 Notices from the Factory Inspector, of which 18 have been complied with and the work carried out in 45 of the remainder. For details of these inspections see table.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The number of visits made in respect to these was 449 and includes the non notifiable cases as mumps etc which are reported from the schools and by parents. Disinfection of the rooms and bedding was carried out in these cases where it was necessary and where application was made by relatives after any infectious case. There were no schools fumigated during the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE. There is one common lodging house in the district and this is registered for 37 men. The premises are in good condition and have been kept under observation and any defects remedied. There were no cases of infectious disease notified during the year.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.

Inspections have been made under the above Acts and records made of the inspections and the necessary notices issued in several cases under the Public Health Act and Housing Acts.

No houses were reported for closing owing to the great need of houses for the working classes at the present time. A great many of the older type of dwelling houses require repairs etc. to be carried out to make them reasonably fit for dwelling houses but the high cost of labour and material render extensive repairs a difficulty matter at the present time.

For details of work carried out under the Acts see table.

PICTURE HOUSES. There are two houses in the district and these have been visited at various times during the year while the premises are in use and other times.

PROCEEDINGS. It was necessary in two cases to take proceedings against the owners for defects under the Public Health Acts and the work was carried out in accordance with the Notices and the summonses withdrawn on the payment of the costs.

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

S. D. WRIGHT.

Inspector of Nuisances.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR 1920.

SUMMARY of INSPECTIONS etc carried out during the
YEAR ending DECEMBER 31st., 1920.

Under the Public Health Acts, 1875 etc.

: : Housing Acts.

: : Factory and Workshop Act.

Unsound Food etc destroyed.

T A B L E A.

ANNUAL REPORT -- YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st., 1920.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS ETC.

	Insp- ectio ns	Infor- mal No tices	Formal Notices	No of Nuis- ances	Nuisances abated	
					Infor- mal	after Formal Notices.
Dwelling houses, Schools &c.						
Insanitary conditions	91	49	14	49	24	11
Defective or dilapidated	112	87	16	87	40	13
Verminous walls (occupiers)	8	7	2	7	5	2
Schools	9	1		1	1	
Overcrowded	11	4	2	4	2	1
Unfit for occupation	1	1				
Dairies & Milkshops	40	4		4	3	
Cowsheds	27	12	1	12	10	1
Workshops & Bakehouses	41	10		10	10	
Other workshops & Factories						
ies	189	56		56	39	
Common lodging House	20	5		5	4	
Slaughter houses	193	39		39	36	
House Drainage						
a. Defective taps	2	1		1		
b. No disconnection	2					
c. Defective closets and drains	140	109	15	109	66	10
Want of proper ash accom- modation	56	47	30	47	19	17
Deposits of trade refuse and manure	27	27	3	27	23	3
Animals &c improperly kept	26	18	1	18	7	1
Defective Spouting and guttering	52	47	13	47	25	8
Smoke nuisances	3			3		
Defective water supplied	15	10		10	7	
Defective paving of yards	15	10		10	10	
Fishmongers premises	21	6		6	3	
Sundry nuisances	59	51	6	51	31	2
Notices &c re visited	1095					
Choked closets & drains released by the Councils men	710					
Ashpits reported for empty- ing	317					
Infectious cases (No of premises visited)	449					

T A B L E B.

UN SOUND FOOD DESTROYED DURING 1920.

- a.. The carcass of one pig -- approx. 200 lbs in weight
- b. : : : : cow.
- c.. 11 Frozen chickens
- d.. 59 Frozen rabbits
- e.. 1 Tin of preserved tongue.
- f.. 30 tins of condensed milk.
- g.. 54 Tins of other preserved fish and food.
- h.. 5 boxes of dried haddock.

Four Magistrates orders were obtained for the destruction of the above food and receipts given in the case of the tinned Food for their destruction.

T A B L E. 0.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Factories	inspections	80	Notices	31
Workshops	do	150	do	36

DEFECTS.

Want of ventilation	Notices	nil	remedied	nil
: : cleanliness	:	27	:	22
Other nuisances	:	16	:	10
Sanitary accommodation	:	21	:	10
Breach of Sanitary requirement in	}	nil	:	nil
bake-houses				
Other offences	:	3	:	3

OTHER MATTERS.

Notified by H. M. Inspector of Factories	24	Notices
Report to : : : :	10	:
New Workshops	10	:
Underground Bake houses in use	nil	

HOME WORK.

Out-workers lists received in accordance with the Act.

List received once	1	outworkers	1
: : twice	1	:	4

PRINCIPAL TRADES OF THE WORKSHOPS ON THE REGISTER.

Locks, Keys etc	138
File Cutting	10
Hardware trades	30
Dressmaking	13
Workers in wood and iron	21
Bakehouses	15
Sundry trades	48
Void General Trades	28
: Bakehouses	5
Total	308

Workshops on the register at end of 1920 occupied	197
Factories : : : : :	78

T A B L E D.

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT DURING 1920.

Dwelling houses.

Cleansed - - - - -	}	106
Improved or repaired - - - - -		
Number of "Privies abolished" - - -		31
: : Ashpits abolished - - -		12
Number of ashpits repaired - - - -		6
Number of "new ash bins" provided		51
Number of new wash down water closets erected		42
Choked drains and closets released by the "owners"		31
Dilapidated wash houses repaired - - - - -		5
Spouting and eaves guttering repaired or renewed		33
Waste water closets "taken out" and was down closets put in		5
Paving of yards relaid		10
Common lodging house -- various repairs		4
Slaughter houses -- floor relaid and drained		1
Water supply service re-instated		7
Picture house redecorated		1
Sundry improvements		33

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Privies abolished	7
New wash down water closets	3
Workshops cleansed and limewashed	22
Other nuisances remedied	10
Sanitary accommodation	10
Sundry defects remedied	3

Total 438

DISINFECTION.

The disinfecter was in use on 25 days.
 Bedding and other clothes etc disinfected by steam at the
 disinfecting station 136.
 Number of rooms fumigated. **38**

T A B L E E.

ANNUAL REPORT 1920.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING INSPECTIONS.

HOUSING.

a.	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	-----	3845
b.	: : : : for working classes	----	3537
c.	: : : : erected and occupied during 1920		3

INSPECTIONS.

a.	Total number of houses inspected under the Housing Acts	220
b.	: : : : : : Public Health Acts	203
c.	: : : : : : unfit for occupation	1
d.	: : : : : : not reasonable fit	113
e.	: : : : : : and rendered fit after in- formal notice	64
f.	: : : : : : and rendered fit under Sect. 28 -- 1919 Act	20
g.	: : : : : : and notices served under Sect. 28 - 1919 Act	54
h.	: : : : rendered fit by the owner	20
	: : : : local Authority	nil
	Closing order- - - - -	1

Chief defects as classified under the Housing regulations.

a.	The arrangements for preventing the contamination of the water.	
b.	Closest accommodation	Water carriage
c.	Drainage	Storm sewer and fall sewers.
d.	The condition of the dwelling house in regard to "light" the free circulation of air dampness and cleanliness	52
e.	The paving, drainage, and sanitary condition of any yard or outhouses belonging to or occupied with the dwelling house	14
f.	The arrangements for the deposit of refuse and ashes	3
g.	The existence of any room which would in pursuance of sub- section 17 of the Act of 1909 be a dwelling house so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	nil.
h.	Any defects in other matters which may tend to render the dwelling house dangerous or injurious to the health of the inhabitants.	85.

T A B L E G.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES IN THE DISTRICT.

Registered	11..
Licensed	3

NUMBER OF

Milk purveyors	registered	43
Cow keepers	:	3

RENT RESTRICTION ACT.

No written application for "Certificates" respecting the sanitary condition of the dwelling house were received during the year and no certificate was issued by the L. A.

